

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance

and LOMITA NEWS



# Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

Two  
Sections  
12 Pages  
This Issue

SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 22

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## 18 CANDIDATES ARE NAMED TO MAKE CHARTER

Will Be Voted on June 9 At  
Special Consolidated  
City Election

With the filing late Tuesday afternoon of 18 petitions, naming that many citizens who are qualified freeholders, all preparations for the consolidated special election here June 9 were completed.

These 18 prominent residents, who have been electors in Torrance for the past five years, will be voted on by the people to create a "freelholders' board" which will draft a city charter. Their final decision on a constitution for the city, which will raise this municipality out of the general class of sixth-class cities, will be subject to the will of the people at a later election.

**Raise Status of City**  
If the charter proposed by the freelholders is approved by Torrance electors and the State Legislature, then it becomes the foundation and framework of Torrance as a charter city, qualified to "write its own ticket" in the matter of municipal administration and government.

The petitions naming citizens to stand election as freelholders were checked by City Clerk Bartlett with the great register and were said by him to be correct. Each petition was signed by 10 qualified voters of the city who endorsed the citizen to act as a member of the board which will draft the charter.

**Candidates Are Listed**  
Those named as prospective members of this board are:

Thomas L. Cassidy, 1513 Marcellina, an electrical machinist at the Pacific Electric shops; C. Earl Conner, Plaza hotel, commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion; Robert R. Delinger, 2463 Carson, assistant cashier of the First National Bank; C. M. Howard, 1303 Cota, proprietor of grocery department of Quality Market; Carl Hyde, 1605 Hickory, executive secretary Torrance Chamber of Commerce;  
Dr. J. S. Lancaster, 1503 Post, prominent physician, surgeon; Sam Levy, 1503 El Prado, president Torrance Rotary club; Scott R. Ludlow, 1329 Engracia, Union Tool; Guy L. Mowry, 2112 Carson, principal Torrance Evening High school; W. Rufus Page, 1723 Arlington, president Torrance Chamber of Commerce; Fay L. Parks, 1418 Marcellina, proprietor Torrance Plumbing Company; George J. Peckham, 1518 Post, of Schultz, Peckham and Schultz, Ford dealers; James W. Post, 1514 Post, president First National Bank;  
C. T. Rippey, 819 Cota, police judge and secretary Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association; Frank Spon, 2275 Torrance boulevard, carpenter in the erecting department, Pacific Electric shops; DeKalb Spurlin, 500 Portola, land-owner; Trevor C. Whyte, 1829 Post, editor and publisher Torrance Herald; and Herbert S. Wood, 1723 Martina, principal Torrance High school.

## VOTE NORTH LOMITA TO CITY TUES.

Residents Would Get Much  
Lower Tax Rate Than  
Now Is Paid

Next Tuesday, May 26, residents in the northern section of Lomita will go to the polling place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hills, at 2844 East Elgin street, to cast their ballots on the question of annexing that territory, comprising 560 acres, to the city of Torrance. The last anti-annexation rumor was said "spiked" yesterday by the Citizens' Committee in the district affected by the election when it was proven that if the territory joins the city of Torrance, the tax rate will be much less than now paid to the county. In fact, the difference was 47 cents last year between the county tax rate of \$3.93 paid in North Lomita to the county and the \$3.46 Torrance total tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation. Other advantages of joining the city of Torrance have been explained to the 125 people in the district with the result that it is believed the annexation will win by a good majority.

## DRUM CORPS MAY ACQUIRE DRESS SUITS

Chamber Considers Request  
To Purchase Group  
New Uniforms

Because of the splendid progress being made by the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion drum and bugle corps, it appears that the Chamber of Commerce will reward their efforts with an early appropriation for dress uniforms.

Ralph Satchel, secretary and chairman of the uniforms committee, and Fred Sincott, instructor of the corps, appeared before the chamber's directors Monday and laid their case before that group. They said the corps, which has made great strides in its weekly practices and public appearances, would like to be outfitted in all-white uniforms with black trimmings and aluminum trench helmets. The corps is getting bids on the equipment from local merchants.

The directors took the matter under advisement and some kind of action on the request is expected at the next regular meeting. Frank Steinhilber, member of the board, pointed out that the Legion, from its benefit show last Friday evening, has returned to the city of Torrance as much as the chamber would spend on uniforms. More than \$500 worth of food stuffs, he said, had been given to the Torrance Relief Society among the needy families of the city as result of the Legion's benefit.

## Look For Next Week's Herald Early Thursday

Next week's Torrance Herald will be delivered to you early Thursday morning. Carry boys are being urged to report at the Herald office at 6 a. m., Thursday, May 28.

This is being done so that advertisers will have two full days to put over their announcements of week-end holiday bargains. Stores generally throughout the city are planning on observing Memorial Day, May 30, with an all-day holiday.

## Per Capita Cost Of Government Is Average Here

Torrance has an average per capita cost of municipal government, according to a publication just issued by Ray L. Riley, state controller. The cost per person here is \$18.76.

While several nearby cities, to which Torrance may be compared, have lower per capita costs, it may be noted that this city has a larger comparative area in proportion to its population than any of them. In this class are Huntington Park, \$11.94; South Gate, \$12.98; Inglewood, \$15.00; Maywood, \$10.83; Hawthorne, \$13.15; San Gabriel, \$12.49, and Compton, \$17.32. Bell has the lowest cost as its governmental operations total but \$8.19 per capita.

In Riley's report there are such exaggerated cases in average per capita cost of municipal government as Vernon with its \$308.53; Signal Hill, \$50.56, or Beverly Hills, \$47.99.

From the per capita viewpoint, the bigger cities have little to boast about. In Los Angeles it is \$34.86; Long Beach, \$43.31; Santa Monica, \$33.42; Pasadena, \$44.43, and Pomona, \$25.71.

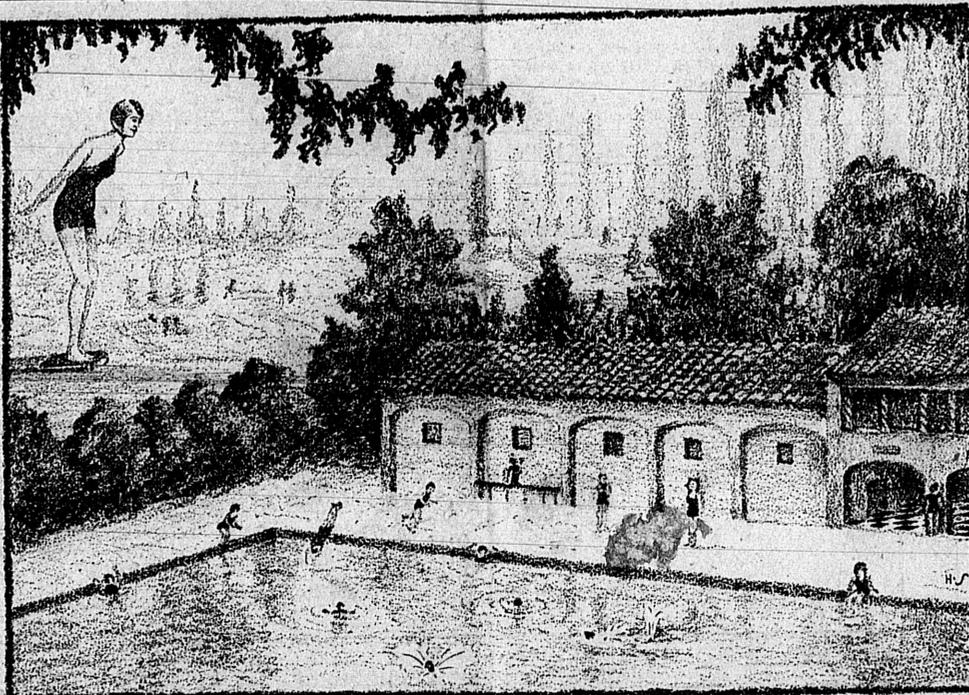
**Direct Conference  
With P. E.'s 'Head  
Man' Planned Now**

The City Council is going to deal with the long-pending improvement of the Torrance (Redondo) boulevard right-of-way now held but not used by the Pacific Electric, directly with the railway company's "head man."

City Engineer Leonard was instructed Tuesday night to "make a date" with D. W. Pontius, president of the Pacific Electric, for a conference with him by the entire council, city attorney and city engineer.

If the P. E. is not going to use the right-of-way, the city wants to get it back so that the strip may be improved and not left over in its present unattractive state.

## CITY PARK TO HAVE PLUNGE



Rivalling pleasures of the "ole swimmin' hole" and with none of the boyhood attraction's natural disadvantages, the Torrance Municipal Plunge will provide all residents with many hours of refreshing recreation beginning this fall if the park-playground bond issue, to be voted June 9, carries in this city. Herbert Summers, local artist, has pictured a moment of a day at the beautiful civic plunge and its adjacent dressing quarters in the above sketch. A continuous flow of purified water will make the Torrance plunge one of the healthiest out-of-door natatoriums in the Southland.

"—An' the last one in's a nigger-baby!"  
How often have you heard this boyhood challenge as lithe, brown bodies breathlessly rushed to the water's edge, divested themselves of clothes without heed to buttons, and plunged into the cooling reaches of pond, stream or ocean!

Torrance has determined it isn't going to be a "nigger-baby" in the matter of an open-air plunge and consequently that important adjunct to a municipal park is included in the tentative plans for a civic recreation center which is to be voted on by the people June 9.

**One of Many Attractions**  
Swimming and water sports have long been recognized as one of the best forms of sport. Every muscle is brought into play when you leave the water with a swimming stroke. There are a number of water games especially adapted to provide the finest of exercise.

A Torrance Municipal Plunge, built by men who badly need employment at the present time, will be one of the many attractions of the proposed city park. It would very likely be 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, having a nine-foot depth at one end that graduates up to two-feet at the shallow portion of the pool.

**To Be Spotlessly Clean**  
Ample, modern and airy dressing rooms would be built in a plunge pavilion on one side of the outdoor pool. This building would follow the same type of architecture as other park structures.

A continuous stream of purified water flowing into the plunge during the time it is open, free of charge to the public, would keep it sanitary, pure and conducive to good health. Regular cleaning periods, during which the plunge would be scrubbed spotlessly clean, would be maintained.

**Here's the Cost:**  
You home-owners of Torrance, don't you think such a plunge like this, in addition to other recreational facilities to be established in the proposed Torrance Municipal Park and several children's playgrounds scattered in other parts of the city, is worth the small sum of 90 cents per year?

That is all a park and the playgrounds, fully equipped, is going to cost the average home-owner with a house and lot assessed at \$1800. A lot-owner here, with property assessed at about \$700, will only have to pay 35 cents per year for the purchase and construction of the park and playgrounds.

**Wouldn't you get more than 90 cents' worth of pleasure out of such a civic recreation center?**

## Rev. Schmid To Leave City For Glendale Post

San Francisco Pastor Will  
Take Evangelical  
Pulpit Here

Torrance loses another prominent churchman in addition to Rev. R. A. Young, of the First Methodist Episcopal church, with the departure next week of Rev. G. G. Schmid, minister of the Central Evangelical church here for the past four years.

Rev. Schmid, who has won the friendship of a large number of Torrance people in addition to the affection of his own congregation, goes to Glendale to take over the First Evangelical church at Maryland and California streets. His successor, who will preach his first sermon in Torrance Sunday, May 31, is Rev. O. D. Wonder, of San Francisco.

The departing minister will conclude his service here with his last message next Sunday evening. Rev. Schmid was ordered to the Glendale field at the conference held at Forterville last week, which was in charge of Bishop John Stamm, D. D.

Rev. Wonder, the in-coming pastor, is married and has been working the Mission district of San Francisco for the past five years. His son and daughter graduated from the University of California at Berkeley last week.

"I am, naturally, very sorry to leave Torrance," Rev. Schmid said yesterday. "But we Evangelical ministers go wherever we're sent as we follow the itinerant plan. I have deeply appreciated the courtesy and the warm feeling of here and both Mrs. Schmid and myself will leave Torrance with many treasured memories."

Rev. Schmid is a member of the Torrance Kiwanis club. He has entered into the civic life of the city and contributed a great deal toward the spiritual advancement of the Evangelical congregation, according to all members of his flock here.

## 90 OR 35 CENTS A YEAR!

City Engineer Reports Cost of the Park Playgrounds To  
Home and Lot Owners Will Be Very Small

Question: If I am an average home-owner, with property assessed at \$1800, what will it cost me for the proposed city park and several children's playgrounds that I am going to vote on June 9?  
Answer by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard: "Just about 90 cents a year!"

Question: "What will it cost an average lot-owner, whose property is assessed at \$700, if the \$150,000 park-playgrounds bond issue carries June 9?"  
Answer by Leonard: "Approximately 35 cents a year!"

These are the facts concerning the cost of the proposed park and playgrounds to be constructed exclusively by Torrance labor if the people support the bond issue. City Engineer Leonard has made a diligent study of the matter and reported his above answers this week.

The cost for the amortization and payment of interest on the bond issue of \$150,000 will be about five (.05) cents per \$100 assessed valuation, he said. Maintenance and fixed expense of equipment is expected to cost about four (.04) cents per \$100 assessed valuation per year.

Present plans are to pay for the maintenance and care of the park and playgrounds out of Chamber of Commerce funds. This will reduce the cost to taxpayers four cents, leaving but an actual outlay of five cents to be paid by the people.

The announced intention of the Chamber of Commerce to pay the bonds' interest and redemption out of its own funds has been found legally impossible, it is reported. However, the chamber can maintain the recreational centers out of its advertising and promotion fund.

The 90-cent cost to home-owners is seven and one-half cents per month, while the monthly cost to an average lot owner is less than three cents, according to Leonard's figures. Why, 90 cents is less than it would cost to take a family for a day's outing at the Redondo plunge—and there is a beautiful, well-equipped park and playgrounds, in addition to a modern swimming pool, awaiting Torrance residents if the bond issue carries June 9!

**LEGION POST, AUXILIARY TO HAVE  
PART IN TWO MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Memorial Sunday observance, preceding the time-honored Memorial Day service, May 30, will be held in this city at the Torrance Theater Sunday morning at 9:25 o'clock, with the Bert S. Crossland Post and Auxiliary, American Legion, as honored guests of the Torrance Men's Bible class.

The speaker at this observance will be Hon. Frank Merriam, lieutenant governor of the State. The mayors and councilmen of seven surrounding cities will be honored guests.

A parade from 190th street and Normandie avenue will lead those who attend the program to the speakers' stand in front of the giant Roosevelt organ.

## Where Will the New Park, Playgrounds Be Located?

Sites Not to Be Selected Until After Election, June 9, Council Says; City Free to Accept Any Offers

"Torrance, California,  
May 19, 1931.

**"STATEMENT BY CITY COUNCIL  
ON PROPOSED PARK SITES:**

"In order to clarify the City Council's position on the matter of selection of sites for the proposed new park and children's playgrounds, the following signed statement is issued to the public:

"This City Council has no definite site under consideration for either the major park or any of the children's playgrounds.

"The only two proposals that have been received to date have come from the Santa Fe Land & Improvement Company and the Torrance Holding Company. No action or promises of any sort have been made to either of these companies; and furthermore, other property owners of suitable park sites are invited and urged to submit them to this council.

"This council feels that the proper time to consider the location of the park and playgrounds is AFTER the bond issue is approved.

"It is the pledge of this City Council that when the proper time comes it will select the best possible sites for the park and playgrounds which may be secured for the money."

"Signed: City Council of the City of Torrance.  
"JOHN DENNIS, Mayor.  
"R. R. SMITH  
"E. C. NELSON  
"C. B. BELL  
"G. A. R. STEINER."

## CITY'S WATER CASE THROWN OUT OF APPELLATE COURT

Expect Water Company to File Injunction Suit Now in the  
Superior Court; Long-Drawn Out Fight Foreseen

With the refusal of the Appellate Court to issue a writ of mandamus to "compel" City Treasurer Harry H. Dolley to issue the \$100,000 worth of bonds voted by the people September 25 for a new publicly-owned and operated water system and the court's decision not to take jurisdiction in the city's water suit, there is no litigation now pending at the present time.

The next move is expected from the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, or George W. Dilling, one of its stockholders, who are reported ready to file an injunction suit in the Superior Court blocking the city's plans for a public water system.

There is a possibility that the case may be taken to the United States Supreme Court for final adjudication before the court battle is over.

**File Suit Immediately**  
This is a summary of City Attorney Perry G. Briney's report to the City Council Tuesday night on the status of the water suit which has prevented the city from carrying out the people's overwhelming decision eight months ago to create a publicly-owned and operated water production and distributing system.

No reason was given by the District Court of Appeals as to why that judicial body refused to take jurisdiction in the controversy brought on by the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company under the name of George W. Dilling, a stockholder. Briney said that the Appellate Court did not have to hand down any cause.

The attorney declared that the water company's attorneys plan on instituting injunction proceedings to halt any move by the city to construct its water system into this week in the Superior Court.

**Bitter Fight Foreseen**  
Some encouragement was given the city in Briney's report as he said the Los Angeles City Attorney's office and the County Counsel would lend all possible assistance to the city of Torrance in the case by assisting in getting an early hearing in the Superior Court. This cooperation was offered the city because Los Angeles has many thousands of dollars tied up in bond issues voted under the same act as Torrance used for the establishment of the water district here last September. A decision on the Torrance case would settle the question of whether or not the act is constitutional.

**Canvass Lomita  
Vote on June 1**

An adjourned meeting of the City Council will be held Monday evening, June 1, when the North Lomita annexation election returns of May 26 will be canvassed. The report of the council's findings then will be sent to the Secretary of State at Sacramento for final action.

**ASK FOR SIDEWALKS**  
A request will be made of the Santa Fe Railroad to construct sidewalks over the railroad crossing at Sonoma avenue. The council instructed City Engineer Frank Leonard to take the matter of the improvement up with the railroad company as soon as possible.

There is a good chance, according to James L. Heebe, member of the firm of O'Melveny, Fuller and the city's special counsel, that we can get the case decided in the Superior Court—even on an appeal—by the end of the year," Briney said. Later, however, the attorney declared that he doubted this could be effected in that time.

(Continued from Page 2-A)